

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying a symbol combination associated with an award;

a reel display window unit disposed in front of the variable display device;

an electrical display panel disposed between the reel display window unit and the variable display device; and

a holder disposed between the electrical display panel and the variable display device, the holder having a thickness enough to hold the electrical display panel from a rear side thereof, the holder for holding the electrical display panel from the rear side thereof, wherein:

the holder includes a rectangular opening smaller than the reel display window unit; the reel display window unit displays the symbol combination through the opening of the holder and the electrical display panel, the symbol combination displayed on the variable display device; and

a peripheral corner portion in a rear side in a thickness direction of the opening, the peripheral corner portion serving as an outer periphery of the opening of the holder, is removed so as not be viewed in a case where the symbol combination on the variable display device is viewed through the opening of the holder.

7. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 6, further comprising:

a light guiding plate disposed between the electrical display panel and the holder, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the electrical display panel, wherein:

the holder functions as a reflection plate for reflecting the light on the electrical display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate.

8. (New) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display device for variably displaying symbols associated with an award; and
a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, wherein:
the front display device includes:
a liquid crystal panel through which the variable display device can be seen;
a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel;
a rear holder disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the rear holder functioning as a reflection plate for reflecting the light on the liquid crystal panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the rear holder having a predetermined thickness in order to hold the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate from a rear side thereof;
the rear holder is provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device are displayed through the liquid crystal panel; and
a peripheral comer portion of the opening of the rear holder, the opening at a side of the variable display device in a thickness direction of the rear holder, is removed so as not be viewed through the liquid crystal panel.

9. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein:
the peripheral comer portion of the opening in a rear side of the rear holder is removed in a stepped-down form.

10. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 8, further comprising:
an antistatic sheet for preventing static charge, provided in part of the opening in the rear side of the rear holder, the part at which the peripheral comer portion has been removed, so as to cover the rear side of the opening of the rear holder.

11. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein:
the variable display device is made up of a rotatable reel on which the symbols are drawn; and
the reel of the variable display device is disposed internally of the gaming machine so that part of an outer periphery of the reel, the part positioned at the forefront is exposed from the opening in the rear side of the rear holder.